

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Figure 1 shows the top part of a multi-part housing 2 and a two-part cover 4, which closes the housing 2, of an electrical switching device, such as a three-pole contactor. For each pole, two contact straps 6 are secured in position in housing 2, said contact straps having externally accessible terminal contacts 8. Contact straps 6 extend into interrupting chambers 10, which are laterally bounded by inner walls 12 formed in ~~housing 2~~ housing 2. On the interrupting chamber side, contact straps 6 are provided with stationary switching contacts 14, which cooperate in a known manner with movable switching contacts (shown schematically as 29 in Fig. 5) in the form of contact bridges. An arc-quenching device, either in the form of a U-shaped cooling plate 16 or in the form of an arc splitter plate stack 18 of spaced-apart stacked arc splitter plates 20, can be inserted into each interrupting chamber 10. To this end, guide and retaining elements are formed in housing 2 and in cover 4, said guide and retaining elements being described in more detail below. In each interrupting chamber 10, the mounting position of cooling plate 16 and the mounting position of arc splitter plate stack 18 extend one behind the other with respect to the longitudinal direction of the respective switch pole. In this connection, the mounting position of cooling plates 16 is closer to stationary switching contacts 14, while the mounting position of the arc splitter plate stacks 18 is closer to terminal contacts 8.